

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) An improved gasket assembly for sealing between longitudinally opposed mating surfaces of at least a pair of members adapted to be forcibly mated together to clamp said gasket therebetween, the mating surfaces having openings therein laterally aligned in longitudinal communication with each other when the members are mated together, said gasket comprising:

at least two relatively rigid carriers each having first and second laterally-extending sides defining a longitudinal thickness therebetween, said carriers each having at least one gasket opening therethrough adapted to be laterally aligned in longitudinal communication with the openings in the mating surfaces of the members when said gasket assembly is clamped between the mated members, said first and second carriers being at least partially separated from one another at least in an unclamped state;

a longitudinally flexible inner sealing portion of each of said carriers disposed laterally adjacent and substantially defining the periphery of said gasket opening, said inner sealing portion being longitudinally offset relative to the remainder of said carrier, said inner sealing portion being offset in a longitudinal direction toward a first of the members when said gasket assembly is clamped between the mated members; and